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**TICEHURST**  
**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health*

— AND —

*Sanitary Inspector,*

FOR THE YEAR 1925.



1925

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

### TICEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

1925.

Area in Acres ...	...	...	...	...	45,914
Census Population ...	...	...	...	12,938	
Number of inhabited houses ...	...	3,286			
Number of Families or separate occupiers ...	...	..	3,125		
Rateable value ...	...	...	...	...	£39,023
Sum represented by one penny rate			...	...	£299

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Population estimated to middle of year ...	11,970	12,940	12,840	12,870	12,987	12,730
Birth Rate per 1000 of Population ...	14.0	18.5	16.0	15.	14.	11.
Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births ...	91.4	55.0	65.0	65.0	35.	36.
Total Death Rate per 1000	12.5	12.5	12.0	10.0	12.0	15.
Nett Death Rate per 1000	12.7	12.0	11.5	10.	12.0	11.
Zymotic Death Rate per 1000 ...	.3	.5	.07	.1	0.0	.1
Death Rate from Phthisis per 1000 ...	2.0	.5	1.4	.4	0.5	1.2
Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases per 1000	1.0	.4	1.2	.4	0.5	.7
Senile Mortality, deaths at 65 years and over as percentage of Nett Deaths	43.0	47.5	55.0	50.	56.0	52.
			Total.	Males.	Females.	
Births—Legitimate ...	...	...	181	88	93	
„ Illegitimate ...	...	...	9	4	5	
Deaths ...	...	...	150	75	75	
Women dying from childbirth—nil.						

### **Vital Statistics.**

According to the Census (corrected) Returns 1924 the population of the District during the period from 1901 to 1921 may now be correctly stated—

Census.	Population.	Males.	Females.
1901	... 12,767	... 6,321	... 6,446
1911	... 13,505	... 6,688	... 6,817
1921	... 12,938	... 6,159	... 6,779

The Census 1921 there was a decrease of population shown in all civil parishes except Wadhurst which remains the same and Salehurst.

Persons per acre were 0.3.

The Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1000 Births was 36. Deaths under one year 7, Legitimate 6, Illegitimate 1. Causes of death Premature Birth 2, Bronchitis 2, Diarrhoea 2, other diseases 1.

The Vital Statistics for the District are satisfactory.

The Birth Rate was 11. very low, and seems to be falling, unfortunately 9 of these were illegitimate.

The Nett Death rate was 11.

The death rate from Tuberculosis was somewhat higher, 21 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, these are exclusive of cases entering Darvell Bank and not belonging to district.

The chief causes of death during the past year were—Cancer 12, Heart Disease 27, Tuberculosis 11, Suicide 3, Accidents 9, Whooping Cough 1, Diphtheria 1.

### **Comparative Vital Statistics.**

	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Infantile Mortality rate.
England & Wales	... 18.3	... 12.2	75
Ticehurst Rural	... 11.	... 11.	36

### **Infectious Diseases.**

Diseases.	Total.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	... 3	0	1
Scarlet Fever	... 4	3	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Males 13. Females 8)	21	M. 10 F. 4	M. 3 F. 3
Non Pulmonary (Males 6. Females 2)	8	M. 3 F. 1	M. 3 F. 2

### **Infectious Fever Hospital.**

During the past year few cases of infectious illness have been notified and the work at the Isolation Hospital has not been heavy. The Hospital has been maintained in good condition. The Staff have, as in previous years, carried out their duties satisfactorily.

The hospital is a great asset for preventing the spread of infectious disease.

### **Nursing.**

General—Sussex County Nursing Federation.

Smallpox—Site at Flimwell and arrangements with County Borough Hospital, Hastings.

Tuberculosis—County Council, Darvell Bank, Robertsbridge.

Fever—Council's Hospital, Flimwell.

Venereal Diseases—Tunbridge Wells, Hastings and Brighton Hospitals.

Ambulance—For infectious diseases at the Hospital.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

There is an excellent Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Wadhurst.

### **Laboratory Work.**

Pathological Specimens and Bacterial specimens are sent to the M.O.H.—Sputum 12, Positive 6, Negative 4, Swabs 8.

Diphtheria Antitoxin supplied. The Sanitary Inspector keeps a stock and supplies on demand to Medical Practitioners, free.

### **Slaughter Houses.**

Registered in 1920.	In January 1925.	In December 1925.
„ 8	8	8
Licensed 8	8	8
—	—	—
16	16	16
—	—	—

### **Water Supply.**

Wadhurst Supply from Crowborough Water Coy.

Water supply insufficient at areas known as Osmers Hill and Woods Green. Council have fixed a stand pipe from a private service as a temporary measure; Crowborough Water Company will not extend the mains as the rateable value is insufficient. The Council have had this matter in hand for two years.

Frant Village supplied from Public Wells and Private Wells.  
Conditions unaltered. (*Supply needed*).

Burwash	}	Supplied by the Heathfield & District Water Coy.
Ticehurst		Conditions unaltered.
Salehurst		Flimwell badly needs a water supply, and the Council is negotiating with the Heathfield and District Water Company.

The total number of houses in the various parishes supplied from the mains of the Water Companies, at the end of the year, is approximately—Frant 29, Wadhurst 544, Ticehurst 122, Etchingham 24, Burwash 119, Salehurst 150, Bodiam Nil.

### **Sewage Disposal.**

Frant Village—Partly sewered, outfall to large cesspool, effluent irrigated.

Wadhurst—Durgates Sewage Works up to date percolating filters and Sedimentation Tanks.

Wadhurst—*Wadhurst Town*. Broad irrigation on 4 acres of land.

Wadhurst—*Cousley Wood*. The Council have laid a scheme before the Ministry of Health which will deal with the main area.

Ticehurst—A system of sewers exist. Flimwell should be sewered.

Burwash	}	Portions of sewers exist, but all are bad.
Salehurst		
Etchingham		

There are in the district—Pails and Privies, 2711. Water Closets, 900.

### **Scavenging.**

Wadhurst—A scheme of private scavenging has been formulated by the Parish Council. Householders paying for removal. No other parishes have any form of scavenging, although there is a need for same.

No scheme for emptying cesspools or removing contents of earth closets and privies exist in district.

### **Slaughter Houses.**

Slaughter Houses are visited once a week during killing time, as the Inspector finds time, each Parish is taken in turn.

### **General Sanitary Survey.**

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health is required to contain an account of the sanitary improvements in the

District for the previous 5 years. Considerable progress has been made in the building of new houses. The extension of Electric Light for the Parishes of Frant, Wadhurst, Ticehurst and Flimwell and the improvement in the Sewage Works.

The District is chiefly residential, agricultural, dairy farming, cattle and poultry are reared. Hops are grown but not to such an extent as before the War. The pickers are mostly home pickers.

The Sanitary Inspector is a building Surveyor as well as Sanitary Inspector and the work placed upon him with regard to the Public Health (meat) regulations would seem to merit some assistance. The area of the district is wide, there are several Sewage Works to attend to besides buildings and the routine work of a Sanitary Inspector, I suggest that the appointment of an Assistant Inspector should be considered, or any form of assistance the Inspector would most prefer. Mr. Harris's work is very good and conscientiously carried out.

### **List of Adoptive Acts and Byelaws.**

Original Byelaws	...	...	...	adopted March 16th, 1877
Public Health (Water) Act (provision of)	...	...	...	„ „ 25th, 1879
Byelaws (New Buildings)	...	...	„	June 25th, 1903
„ (Hoppicking)	...	...	„	„ 25th, 1903
„ (Tents, Vans and Sheds)	...	„	„	May 15th, 1908
„ (Slaughter Houses)	...	„	„	March 11th, 1903
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops order	...	...	...	1885
Regulations with respect to Cowsheds, etc.,	...	...	...	Jan. 1st, 1907
„ under Section 21, P.H.A.	„	„	„	May 19th, 1904
Revised Building Byelaws	...	...	...	1923
Part 3, P.H.A. Amendment Act, 1890	„	„	„	March 13th, 1902
Section 25, P.H.A. Amendment Act, 1875	...	...	„	Dec. 9th, 1904
P.H.A. Amendment Act, 1907	...	„	„	Dec. 24th, 1908

### **Housing.**

General Facts—Throughout the District many cottages are occupied by more than one family. There is a tendency for the occupation of vans and sheds by families which appears to be increasing.

Wadhurst—Sir George Courthope, Bart., M.P., has a scheme for the erection of 12 houses, there is also a talk of a Local Building Society building cottages.

## **Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.**

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)). 39  
including non subsidy houses.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons private enterprise.	...	...	...	...	18

**1. Unfit dwelling-houses.**

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ... ... ... ... 90

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ... ... 70

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... none certified

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... .. ... ... ... 16

**2. Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ... ... ... 30

**3. Action under Statutory Powers.**

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... nil

## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—							
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...						nil

## C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	nil

**Public Health Staff.**

M.O.H. whole time, D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector qualified M.S.I.A.

The Sanitary Inspector's work has been very good during the past year. I append Inspector's report.

In conclusion I have to thank the Council for the courtesy extended to me during the past year.

I also thank the Clerk and other Officials of the Council for their assistance.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH STOTT.

**Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector and  
Building Surveyor,  
TO  
The Ticehurst Rural District Council,  
For the Year 1925.**

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To the Chairman and Members of the Ticehurst Rural District Council.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

I herewith submit my Annual Report for the year 1925, giving particulars of the work performed under your direction in the district.

Details of nuisances reported and abated, structural works, sanitary improvements, building operations, and housing are given in the following tables.

I beg to tender my thanks for the consideration shown by the Council, and for the continued support of the Sanitary Committee in the performance of my duty.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**ARTHUR E. HARRIS, M.S.I.A.**

*Sanitary Inspector and  
Building Surveyor.*

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**Summary of Inspections and Visits made during  
the year.**

Number of Houses examined as to their sanitary condition	90
"    Visits to Workshops    ...	35
"    "    Slaughter Houses   ...	45
"    "    Bakehouses   ...	30
"    "    Cowsheds and Dairies ...	230
"    "    Work proceeding for abatement of Nuisances ..	180
"    "    Houses in which Infectious Disease occurred ...	20
"    "    Houses in which Phthisis occurred ...	10
"    "    For taking water samples   ...	9
"    "    Fumigate houses   ...	10

Number of Visits to Remove Bedding	...	...	...	4
"      " Test Drains	...	...	...	12
"      " Inspections to new buildings	...	...	...	260
"      " under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	154
"      " Visits on receipt of complaint	...	...	...	25
"      " to Schools	...	...	...	15
"      " Inspections of sewers and disposal works	...	...	...	150
"      " Visits to Hoppickers' huts	...	...	...	40
				<hr/>
	Total number of visits	...	...	1319
				<hr/>

### **Summary of Housing.**

Number of new houses erected during the year 1925 :

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923, or 1924 :							
1. By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
2. By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Number of Houses inspected and recorded for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... 70

Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... ... 16

Defects remedied by informal notice :

    Dwelling Houses rendered fit ... ... ... 30

Action under Statutory Powers :

    Proceedings under section 28 Housing T.P. &c. Act nil

Proceedings under Public Health Act :

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served	...	...	...	70
2. Number of Houses in which defects were remedied by Owners	...	...	...	95

No action was taken by the Local Authority in default of Owners.

### **Proceedings under Public Health Acts for the Abatement of Nuisances.**

Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	45
"      " Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	25
"      " Nuisances reported	...	...	...	61
"      " Nuisances abated	...	...	...	56

**Details of Work carried out under the Supervision  
of the Sanitary Inspector.**

Number of Privies converted into Water Closets	...	...	2
" " " " Pail Closets	...	...	4
New Drains laid (yards in length)	...	...	...
	425		
Number of Drain Traps fixed	...	...	17
" Ventilating Shafts	...	...	9
" Intercepting Traps	...	...	4
" Inspection Chambers	...	...	15
" Privies repaired	...	...	4
" Floors relaid	...	...	16
" Urinals repaired	...	...	2
" Drains cleared	...	...	10
" Earthenware sinks and waste pipes	...	...	12
" Houses drained to sewer	...	...	4
" Houses having drains relaid or repaired	...	20	
" Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	15
" Ditches and Cesspools cleansed	...	...	10
" New Water Closets provided	...	...	33
" Water Closets repaired	...	...	3
" New Earth Closets provided	...	...	2
" Houses provided with light and ventilation	...	12	
" New Cesspools or septic tanks provided	...	4	
" Houses repaired throughout	...	...	25
" " having roofs and gutters repaired	...	14	
" " whitewashed and cleansed	...	7	
" " provided with proper water supply	...	3	
" Wells cleaned out and repaired	...	...	2
" Overflows disconnected or cesspools emptied	...	13	
" Workshops Whitewashed	...	...	6
" Tents, vans, sheds (nuisance removed)	...	16	
" Nuisances arising from Poultry or Animals	...	3	
" Offensive accumulations removed	...	4	
" Nuisances from overcrowding	...	4	

**Infectious Diseases.**

Number of cases isolated at home	...	...	...	...	4
" " removed to Isolation Hospital, Flimwell					3
" visits to houses during infectious illness, including					
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	30
" Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	15
" cases in which bedding was removed	...	...	...	4	
" visits to Schools re infectious cases	...	...	...	12	

**Total number of Cases Notified in each Locality.**

		Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
Burwash	...	3	2
Etchingham	...	0	1
Salehurst	...	1	0

**Schools Closed during the year by the Medical Officer of Health.**

Burwash Weald	...	14 days	...	Chicken Pox
Wadhurst	...	14	„	Influenza
Wadhurst Infants	...	35	„	Mumps, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough
Cousley Wood	...	45	„	Influenza, Chicken Pox and Repairs
Frant	...	28	„	Mumps and Chicken Pox

**Sewage Disposal.**

During the year the following works have been carried out :

					£	s.	d.
Hurst Green	— Repairs to Main Sewer, Bernhurst Estate	...	...	..	...	...	10 0 0
Salehurst	— Relaying Sewer, Fair Lane, Robertsbridge	7	5	0			
„	Extension of Sewer, Brightling Road, Robertsbridge	...	...	...	...	111	8 6
Wadhurst	— Extension of Sewer, Durgates	...	...	...	27	10	0
„	Durgates Sewage Works, Distributing Apparatus	...	...	...	206	4	2

In other Parishes no works were undertaken, and no unusual expenses were incurred. The ditches and outfalls have received constant attention.

**Water Supply.**

During the year 7 samples of drinking water were taken from dwelling houses in the district, and submitted for analysis. Five samples were reported to be of good quality, and two unfit for drinking.

Thirty-three Certificates were issued as to the water supply to dwelling houses.

**Housing, Town Planning Acts.**

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	70
„	„	in which serious defects were found	...	...	...	16
„	„	certified as unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	nil
„	„	repaired under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	25

No Closing Orders were made during 1925.

### **Slaughter Houses.**

Number of Slaughter Houses in use 31/12/25	...	...	16
„ Inspections made ...	...	...	45
„ Notices to remedy defects	...	...	4

Each Slaughter House is limewashed at least four times during the year.

Inspections during killing hours at the various slaughter houses were made.

No seizures or surrenders of unwholesome meat were made during the year.

### **Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

Number of Inspections ...	...	...	...	...	...	35
„ Workshops (excluding Bakehouses) on register						25
„ New Workshops registered	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Bakehouses on register	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ Underground Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Defects under Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	nil

Limewashing is carried out once during the year.

### **Cowsheds and Dairies.**

Number of Cowkeepers and Dairymen on Register in each Parish.

Parish.		Wholesale.	Retail.	Total.
Frant	...	10	7	17
Wadhurst	...	18	12	30
Ticehurst	...	14	9	23
Burwash	...	20	4	24
Etchingham	...	6	3	9
Salehurst	...	13	4	17
	—	—	—	—
	81	39	120	

Approximate number of Milking Cows ...	...	..	1600
Inspections made during the year for special record	...		50
Other visits or re-inspection	...	...	180
Defects remedied in Cowsheds	...	...	15

The interiors of the cowsheds are limewashed at least twice during the winter months and at such other times as may be necessary.

### **Tuberculosis Order 1925.**

Slaughter of diseased animals notified by Police.

Number of animals slaughtered under supervision of Veterinary Inspector and Sanitary Inspector ... 13

In each case the carcase was destroyed.

**Building operations in the District for the Year ended 31st December, 1925.**

Number of plans submitted for approval	...	...	...	...	54
" " approved	...	...	...	...	53
" " withdrawn	...	...	...	...	1
The plans approved represented the following :					
New dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	39
Additions and alterations	...	...	...	...	18
Workshops and other buildings	...	...	...	...	8

**Table Shewing the Total number of Houses Completed or in course of Erection including Subsidy Houses**

Parish.	In course of erection.				Completed.		
Salehurst	...	...	2	...	...		
Burwash	...	...	4	...	...		
Wadhurst	...	...	12	...	...		
Etchingham	...	...	3	...	...		
Ticehurst	...	...	1	...	...		
Frant	...	...	7	...	...		
			—		—		
	Total	...	92		Total	...	32

Eight Houses included in this total are of the Working Class type, and were completed without the Grant.

**Housing, Etc., Act, 1923.**

The Ticehurst Rural District Council has not undertaken any Building Scheme during 1925.

**Assistance to Private Enterprise.**

			Number of Houses approved for Grant.	Completed.		
Non-Parlour	...	...	...	9		
Parlour	...	...	...	8		
			—	—		
	Total	..	17	Total	...	17

Parishes.		Completed Parlour.	Non-Parlour.	Year 1925.		
Wadhurst	...	...	1	...		
Salehurst	...	...	2	...		
Ticehurst	...	...	2	...		
Burwash	...	...	1	...		
Etchingham	...	...	1	...		
		—	—	—		
	Total	...	7	Total	...	10
				Total	...	17

### Housing return from January 1924 to December 1925.

Covering the period during which assistance has been granted by the Ticehurst Rural District Council, to Private Enterprise.

Approved Total Number Houses.		Number Completed.	
Non-Parlour.	Parlour.	Non-Parlour.	Parlour
27	15	20	7

The Owner of each house built under the Housing Act, 1923, receives a grant of £90 when the house is complete, as prescribed by the Act, and by the Minister of Health.

### Total Working Class Houses Completed for Year 1925.

Under the Housing Act, with Grant	...	...	...	17
Private Owners', without Grant	...	...	...	8
				—
				Total ... 25

The total sum paid to Owners of houses approved for the Subsidy during 1925 was £1,530.

### Total number Houses Completed, 1921 to 1925 including Subsidy Houses.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925	Total for 5 years.
Frant	2	0	3	1	0	6
Wadhurst	3	7	2	18	15	45
Ticehurst	8	2	10	2	5	27
Burwash	2	1	5	4	4	16
Salehurst	1	3	1	2	6	13
Etchingham	1	0	4	1	2	8
Bodiam	1	0	0	0	0	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18	13	25	28	32	116

### Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

		Inspections.
Factories, including Factory Laundries	...	16
Workshops, including Workshop Laundries	...	52
Workplaces, other than Outworkers premises	...	8
—	—	—
	Total ...	76

### Defects found in factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

	Found.	Remedied.
Defects found—Want of cleanliness	11	11
Sanitary accommodation—Insufficient	1	1
,, Unsuitable or defective	2	2
—	—	—
Total ...	14	14



